GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4500
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2009
PENDING COURT CASES
Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Mitra Shri Somendra Nath;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various steps taken by the Government like establishment of Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas, a large number of cases are still pending;

(b) if so, the number of pending cases disposed of by the Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas since their establishment and the number of cases pending till date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint more Judges in the existing courts for early disposal of the pending cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in liquidating the pending cases in a time-bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a)&(b): As per the information available, 3,11,39,022 cases were pending in the courts in the country as on 30.6.09. Since their establishment, the Fast Track Courts have disposed of 25.07 lakh cases out of 31.01 lakh cases transferred to them. The Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008 providing for setting up Gram Nyayalayas has come into force only on 2nd October, 2009. Information on cases disposed of and pending in Gram Nyayalayas is not maintained centrally.

(c)&(d): There is no such proposal at present.

(e): The following steps have been taken to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in courts:

(1) Increasing the strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(2) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.

(3) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged.

(4) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.

(5) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

Separately, the Government has decided, in principle, to set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which proposes to undertake several strategic initiatives to (i) outline policy changes (ii) re-engineer procedures (iii) focus on Human Resource Development and (iv) leverage Information and Communication Technology & tools for better justice delivery.

The Government is preparing a road-map for judicial reforms in the country which aims, inter-alia, at reducing pendency in the courts, providing quick and effective justice, introducing accountability of the judges and bringing in transparency in Judicial Process. For this purpose, a National Consultation for Strengthening the Judiciary towards Reducing Pendency and Delays was held in New Delhi on 24-25 October, 2009.